

REMARKS

Claims 2-7, 9-16, and 18-23 are the only claims pending. Claims 2-5, 7, 9-12, 14, 15, and 18-23 have been amended. Claims 1, 8, and 17 have been cancelled. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

Please take notice of the accompanying Change of Correspondence Address Notice for Filed Application and effective immediately, change the correspondence address to:

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The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 8-11, 15-20, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,154,821 to Barth (hereinafter the Barth reference). The Examiner rejected claims 7, 14, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being obvious over the Barth reference, in view of Stracovsky et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,587,894 (hereinafter the Stracovsky reference). Claims 1, 8, and 17 have been cancelled.

The Examiner objected to claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 21, and 22 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but indicated that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this amendment, the Applicants have rewritten in independent form, and slightly amended for reasons of clarity, claims 5, 12, and 21 in accordance with the Examiner's remarks. Applicants believe that the Examiner did not intend for claim 22 (which depends from claim 17) to be included in the list of claims that are

allowable if rewritten in independent form because claim 22 recites limitations that are similar to those in claims 6 and 13 which depend from claims 5 and 12, respectively. Therefore, Applicants have amended claim 22 to depend from amended independent claim 21. Claims 6 and 13 continue to depend directly from amended independent claims 5 and 12, respectively. Claims 2- 4, 7 have been amended to depend from amended independent claim 5. Claims 9-11, 14, and 15 have been amended to depend from amended independent claim 12. Claim 16 continues to depend from claim 15. Claims 18-20, and 23 have been amended to depend from amended independent claim 21. The Applicants believe that rewritten independent claims 5, 12, and 21, and dependent claims 2- 4, 6, 7, 9-11, 13-16, 18-20, 22, and 23 are in condition for allowance.

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Applicants believe that the foregoing amendment and remarks place the application in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

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By: 

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